

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0013] According to an exemplary embodiment, a first section of the pole shank is electrically conductively connected, in a gas-tight and liquid-tight manner, to an inner casing (e.g., inner surface) of the pole sleeve which surrounds it. A sliding element is provided between a second section of the pole shank and the inner casing of the pole sleeve.